



1401 H Street NW
Suite 600
Washington DC
20005-2164

Tel (202) 326-7300
Fax (202) 326-7333
www.usta.org

July 21, 2004

**SUMMARY OF
EX PARTE PRESENTATION**

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TWA325
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: New Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to
Communications, ET Docket No. 04-35**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Today, David Kanupke and I, representing the United States Telecom Association (USTA), and Karen Possner, representing BellSouth Corporation met with Sheryl J. Wilkerson, Legal Advisor to Chairman Michael K. Powell, and Bethany Smocer, intern.. Archie McCain, representing BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., participated in the meeting by telephone.¹ The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status and direction of the proceeding regarding service outage disruptions, ET Docket No. 04-35.

USTA is concerned that the Commission may vote on an order before it has taken adequate time to consider all of the comments filed in this docket. Consistent with its prior filings in this proceeding, USTA emphasized its objections to proposed reporting thresholds for outages affecting SS7 ISUP messages and DS3s. USTA repeated concerns about the increased regulatory and economic burdens that the proposed reporting requirements would impose on carriers as well as concerns about public disclosure of critical infrastructure information contained in outage reports. USTA emphasized that the maintenance control operator of equipment, rather than the lessee of equipment, should be the party responsible for filing outage reports. USTA explained the advantages of its proposal to measure outages based on blocked call counts or on affected network access lines, if blocked-call data is unavailable, rather than assigned telephone numbers. Finally, USTA asked the Commission to clearly define the term "access lines" starting with the definition of the term as used in the ARMIS 43-01 Report.

¹ Mr. McCain's telephone number is (404) 321-8743. His mobile telephone number is (404) 374-9393.

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In accordance with Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Federal Communications Commission's rules, I am filing this letter electronically with your office for inclusion in the public record. Please feel free to telephone me at (202) 326-7223 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Indra Sehdev Chalk", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Indra Sehdev Chalk
Corporate Counsel

cc: Sheryl J. Wilkerson